



## ***George Washington & Jefferson National Forests***

**Supervisor's Office**

**5162 Valleypointe Parkway**

**Roanoke, VA 24019**

**(540) 265-5100**

Release #: 11-020

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR PROJECTS BENEFITTING FOREST SERVICE RESOURCES**

**Roanoke, Va.** –The Virginia Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) is accepting applications for projects that enhance forest ecosystems, restore and improve land health and water quality, or improve the maintenance of existing structures. Projects must be on the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests, or on nearby lands where the project benefits resources on National Forest lands, in Alleghany, Amherst, Bath, Rockbridge, Smyth, and Wythe Counties. Anyone can apply; however, applicants should consult the District Ranger for the proposed project area. Projects can be implemented by the Forest Service, other federal agencies, state and local agencies, organizations, businesses, or individuals.

Applications are available online at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/gwj> on the right side of the page, under quick links: click on "RAC Projects." Applications are also available at Forest Service offices in Roanoke, Covington, Hot Springs, Natural Bridge Station, and Marion, or call 540-265-5100 to request an application. Complete project applications, with location maps, must be submitted electronically or postmarked by midnight on **July 24, 2011**. Applicants are encouraged to submit their applications electronically. Email applications to Michael R. Williams at [mrwilliams04@fs.fed.us](mailto:mrwilliams04@fs.fed.us). Proposals may also be mailed to the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests Supervisor's Office located at 5162 Valleypointe Parkway, Roanoke, Virginia 24019.

The RAC works closely with the Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, to recommend projects that benefit forest health, wildlife, fish, soils, watersheds, archeology, and other resources; maintain roads, trails, buildings, and other infrastructure; decommission roads; or control invasive species. According to RAC Chairman Marek Smith of The Nature Conservancy, "The RAC committee will have nearly \$430,000 to fund projects through the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (Public Law 110-343). The committee's purpose is to help provide employment opportunities in local communities and enhance public collaboration with federal land managers by reviewing and recommending projects to the Forest Supervisor." Members of the RAC were appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture and serve a four-year term.

The RAC will begin reviewing projects for possible funding during their meeting on August 12 from 9:00 to 5:00 at the Roanoke Forest Service office (address above). The public is welcome to attend RAC meetings. Additional information concerning Title II projects is available at the Forest Service website: [www.fs.fed.us/srs](http://www.fs.fed.us/srs). For more information on the Committee or to learn more about proposing projects, please contact Michael R. Williams at 540-265-5173.

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*The mission of the USDA Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.*